

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

SAJ-01 /071 W

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R 031319Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5186

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, GR, HU, RO, TU, YO

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN BALKAN CONFERENCE

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY SOURCE INFORMED DCM FEB 2 THAT GOH HAD FORMALLY REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN BALKAN CONFERENCE NOW IS SESSION IN ATHENS UNDER AUSPICES OF KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT AND ATTENDED BY BULGARIA, GREECE, ROMANIA, TURKEY, AND YUGOSLAVIA. HUNGARIANS REPORTEDLY BASED THEIR PARTICIPATION REQUEST ON FACT THAT AS NEIGHBOR TO TWO OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING(ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA) HUNGARY IS INTERESTED IN RIVER AND RAIL TRANSPORTATION, POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, ETC.

2. KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT REJECTED HUNGARIAN PROPOSAL BUT AGREED TO RECONSIDER IT DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF PRESENT CONFERENCE. SUBJECT WILL BE ONE OF MAIN ITEMS ON AGENDA WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER BITOS VISITS HUNGARY NEXT WEEK.

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3. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR FRANZI IS QUITE IRRITATED BECAUSE GREEK AMBASSADOR KALITSOUNAKIS DENIED THAT HUNGARIANS HAD MADE SUCH A REQUEST TO GREEK GOVERNMENT WHEN ITALIAN EMBASSY IN ATHENS HAD ALREADY RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM GREEK FOREIGN OFFICE OF HUNGARIAN DEMARCHE. ITALIAN ANGER INCREASED WHEN GREEK EMBASSY COUNSELOR PRIVATELY CONFIRMED THAT GOH HAD INDEED MADE SUCH A PROPOSAL.

4. COMMENT: HUNGARY OF COURSE HAS HAD AN HISTORICAL INTEREST IN BOTH YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA. IT IS RATHER CURIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT GOH SOUGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN BALKAN CONFERENCE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT HUNGARIANS CONSISTENTLY WISH TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES AS CENTRAL EUROPEANS AS OPPOSED TO EASTERN EUROPEANS OR BALKANITES. GOH ACTION AGAIN SURFACES QUESTION POSED IN BUDAPEST 0315 (NOTAL) THAT GOH UNDER SOVIET AUSPICES MAY HAVE SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY WHERE YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA ARE CONCERNED.
MCAULIFFE

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